

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 15th state Senate District is ensuring **Naugatuck, Prospect and Waterbury** receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2009–2010:

	Fiscal Year 09-10
Total Education Grants	\$153,608,385
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$876,453
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$3,257,257
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$1,541,032
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$11,822,192
Total State Funds to the 15th District	\$171,105,319

Available Community Resources

- ▶ **Connecticut Student Loan Foundation Parent College Planning eTips** offers a free, customized e-mail service for parents of college-bound students to provide college planning and financial aid information. Visit www.cslf.com or call 1-866-PLAN-4IF.
- ▶ **CT Pro Bono Network Statewide Initiative** was established to help families cope with personal financial management issues in the midst of a troubled economic environment. The network provides a free half-hour consultation with a certified financial planner to people with specific issues such as paying off bills and loans, saving for college and retirement. Call 1-800-490-4237 for more information.

I was honored to have the opportunity to welcome Brigadier General Wilma Vaught to the Waterbury UConn Campus and to meet local hero Ronnie Byrnes Bradley (right), poster girl for the famous WWII Marine poster. We're joined by Bill Pizzuto (left), Executive Director of the UConn Waterbury campus.



Providing Support for Returning Veterans

Men and women in uniform need support not only while fighting overseas, but also when returning home to civilian life. This legislative session, the state took another step to guarantee that those who return from both Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom are properly cared for when they arrive back in Connecticut. We now ensure that any member of a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces, or their dependents, can receive transitional behavioral health services when they return.

Discounts Offered to Veterans

- ▶ Home Depot offers 10% discount on Memorial and Veterans Days.
- ▶ Lowe’s stores offers a 10% discount all-year long. Just show your military ID or veterans association card.



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As year-end quickly approaches I would like to once again share with you a legislative update.

As this unprecedented global recession plays out, it has been—and continues to be—a most trying time for families, businesses and government.

Accordingly, the task of addressing the state’s burgeoning fiscal crisis and negotiating a biennial budget was my primary focus this session. As in the past, my efforts were directed toward making government “live within its means.” My priorities remain the same: eliminating bureaucratic waste; stopping new spending which we can NOT afford; and identifying and supporting vital priority services. While admittedly the final budget did include spending cuts, it was premised on an expansion of the income tax (which has already proven to be unable to meet the revenue projections) and some three billion dollars in one-time revenue sources, as well as numerous phantom savings.

With increasing unemployment and families making do with far less it would have been wrong of me to have supported this budget.

As the only member of my caucus it was most difficult and personally painful not to support the majority position—tough decisions—difficult choices. Nevertheless, I have made these difficult decisions, and will continue to do so, with the best interests of you and your family in mind.

Please know that I will continue to work to best represent you and your families in a candid and forthright way knowing that the near future will require much fortitude and stamina before this fiscal crisis ends.

Let me close by extending my warm and personal wishes to you and your family for a healthy and productive new year.

Sincerely,

Joan V Hartley

Joan Hartley
State Senator

State Senator
Joan Hartley

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I’m proud to
represent the
15th Senate District:
**Naugatuck,
Prospect &
Waterbury**

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State Senator
Joan Hartley
15th District

Serving Naugatuck, Prospect & Waterbury

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Fighting Breast Cancer With Early Detection

A key part in the fight against breast cancer is early detection, which is why I co-authored legislation which focuses on communication of mammographic breast density information to patients. When applicable, all mammography reports given to a patient must include this notice: *“If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide small abnormalities, you might benefit from supplementary screening tests, which can include a breast ultrasound screening or a breast MRI examination.”*

Prescription Medicine Assistance for Uninsured/Unemployed

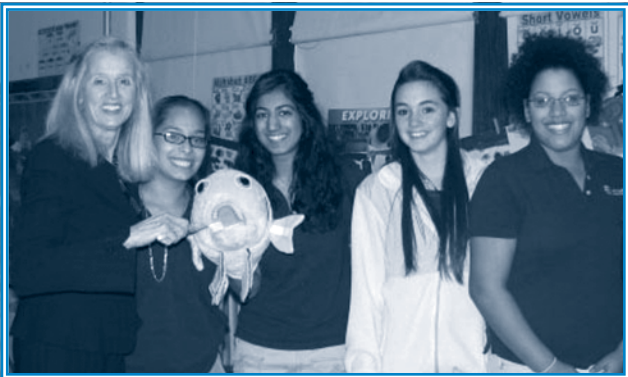
The Merck Patient Assistance Program was created to keep medicines affordable and within reach. This program may provide Merck medicine free of charge for up to one year to eligible individuals who lack prescription drug insurance. Call **1-800-PAP-5400** or visit **www.MerckHelps.com**. Another program, Patient Assistance Now by Novartis, is a resource that allows patients to access programs that may help them pay for their medicines and obtain information about their disease or condition. For information call **1-800-245-5356** or visit **www.PatientAssistanceNow.com**.



Loan Repayment for Medical Students and Health Care Professionals

Doctors, nurses, dentists and other primary care health professionals who agree to practice in the state’s underserved and rural areas following graduation may be eligible for \$50,000 to help repay their student loans through a federal stimulus-funded program. Those interested in the program should call **1-800-221-9393** or visit **nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment**. The application deadline is July 29, 2010.

I was pleased to support AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) Dental Service Activity Day at the Children’s Community School by virtue of a donation of 200 toothbrushes to my office through the efforts of my legislative aide, Melissa Roder.



Criminal Penalties for Identity Theft

Identity theft is a serious crime that can have devastating consequences for victims who spend, on average, \$1,180 and 60 hours cleaning up their credit record. Damaged credit makes it tough to get a good interest rate on a car loan, home mortgage or credit card. This year, a new law which expands the definition of “identity theft” and increases the penalties for those who target seniors was adopted.

Motor Vehicle Repairs

Increased confidence and lower costs for consumers getting their car repaired after an accident: that’s the goal of a new law passed by the General Assembly. Insurance companies will now be prohibited from requiring a consumer to use a specific repair shop to perform auto repairs. In addition, the companies won’t be allowed to state that the repair work may be delayed or not guaranteed if the repairs are performed at a shop that is not one participating in the company’s vehicle repair program.



Reverse 9-1-1 to Keep Your Family Safe

The legislature passed a law revolutionizing the way police officers and firefighters are able to help you and your family in an emergency. Within the 9-1-1 emergency system, information typically flows one way: from you to the dispatcher. Under a new law, emergency personnel will be able to use the 9-1-1 system to contact residents. This technology can be used to speedup evacuation of an area facing a natural disaster, to guide citizens to shelter in the event of a chemical spill, or to enlist aid in finding a missing child, Alzheimer’s patient or a fugitive.

Helping Families on the Brink of Foreclosure

The housing market crash has had a devastating effect on our state and national economies. Connecticut has been a leader in its effort to keep people in their homes and stabilize property values for all homeowners. We built on that success this year by expanding two important mortgage assistance programs. A new law now requires banks and homeowners to work together to explore options before any foreclosure takes place. The law also improves regulation of mortgage professionals and expands the banking commissioner’s enforcement and investigative authority.



Protecting Your Property Values

Foreclosed homes often stand empty and uncared for and can become a target for vandals. Studies have shown that one abandoned, foreclosed property can bring down neighboring property values and increase neighborhood crime. This year, the legislature enacted a new law that requires any bank, lender or holding company that owns a foreclosed property to register that property with the city or town so that the municipalities can enforce any state statute or municipal ordinance on the maintenance or repair of real estate.

Small Businesses: The Backbone of Connecticut’s Economy

This past legislative session we took important steps to help protect small businesses and their workers from the recession. A recession is the wrong time to eliminate state support for small businesses. That’s why we opposed efforts to shut down business incubators, economic assistance grants and supply-chain initiatives—all of which help businesses boost productivity and grow jobs.



Protecting Jobs and Helping Businesses

Seeking to protect jobs and help businesses, the legislature this session passed a law that requires state agencies to produce a small business impact analysis when proposing new regulations. This will serve to keep state requirements reasonable and expeditious for those doing business in the state. As the Senate chair of the Regulations Review Committee it is my charge to oversee the adoption of such regulations. This legislation is most timely.



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